

**Amendments to the Specification**

Please make the following amendments to the specification:

Please amend the paragraph on Page 3, beginning on Line 11, as follows:

The invention ~~according to claim 1~~ is ~~includes~~ a non-contact holder which comprises: a body having an ejection recess having an ejection opening from which a fluid is ejected and a side surface gradually diverging toward the ejection opening; discharge ports provided at positions adjacent to the side surface of the ejection recess of the body to discharge the fluid along the side surface in the axial direction; a fluid supply channel provided inside the body and connecting to the discharge ports to supply the fluid to the discharge ports; and a flat end surface formed integrally with an outer edge of the body around the ejection opening so as to oppose to a surface of an object to be held opposing to the ejection opening to guide the flow of the fluid to an outside of the opposite surface of the object to be held.

Please amend the paragraph on Page 3, beginning on Line 22, as follows:

In an aspect, ~~The invention according to claim 2 is the non-contact holder defined in claim 1,~~ wherein radial flow guides are formed on the side surface of the ejection recess to guide the flow of the fluid discharged from the discharge ports radially outward from a center of the inner bottom surface of the ejection recess.

Please amend the paragraph on Page 4, beginning on Line 1, as follows:

In an aspect, ~~The invention according to claim 3 is the non-contact holder defined in 1 or 2,~~ wherein the fluid supply channel includes axial flow guides for guiding the flow of the fluid to be

discharged from the discharge ports to the side surface of the ejection recess in the axial direction of the side surface of the ejection recess.

Please amend the paragraph on Page 4, beginning on Line 6, as follows:

In an aspect, ~~The invention according to claim 4 is the non-contact holder defined in any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein~~ the fluid supply channel has a fluid reservoir for storing a required amount of the fluid on a way thereof.

Please amend the paragraph on Page 4, beginning on Line 9, as follows:

In an aspect, ~~The invention according to claim 5 is the non-contact holder defined in any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein~~ a plurality of fluid supply channels are disposed to be connected respectively to fluid supply ports provided in a peripheral surface of the body in the radial direction.

Please amend the paragraph on Page 4, beginning on Line 13, as follows:

In an aspect, ~~The invention according to claim 6 is the non-contact holder defined in any one of claims 1 to 5, wherein~~ the discharge ports are provided at positions opposing to each other around the center of the inner bottom surface of the ejection recess, and the radial flow guides extend from the discharge ports to the ejection opening.

Please amend the paragraph on Page 4, beginning on Line 18, as follows:

In an aspect, ~~The invention according to claim 7 is the non-contact holder defined in any one of claims 2 to 6, wherein~~ the radial flow guides and the axial flow guides are grooves or

protrusions.

Please amend the paragraph on Page 4, beginning on Line 21, as follows:

In an aspect, ~~The invention according to claim 8 is the non-contact holder defined in claim 6, wherein~~ the radial flow guides are divergent grooves having a width gradually increasing from the discharge ports to the ejection opening and a depth gradually decreasing from the discharge ports to the ejection opening, the divergent grooves being substantially flush with the side surface at the ejection opening or in the vicinity thereof.

Please amend the paragraph on Page 5, beginning on Line 1, as follows:

In an aspect, ~~The invention according to claim 9 is the non-contact holder defined in any one of claims 1 to 8, wherein~~ the body comprises quartz glass.

Please amend the paragraph on Page 5, beginning on Line 3, as follows:

In an aspect, ~~The invention according to claim 10 is the non-contact holder defined in any one of claims 1 to 9, wherein~~ the object to be held is a glass plate, a sheet, a resin semiconductor wafer, or a display panel.

Please amend the paragraph on Page 5, beginning on Line 6, as follows:

In an aspect, ~~The invention according to claim 11 is the non-contact holder defined in any one of claims 1 to 10, which~~ further comprises: a fluid storage tank provided on a way of an external fluid supply channel for connecting the fluid supply channel of the body to a fluid supply source so as to store a required amount of fluid; and a fluid temperature controller for controlling a

temperature of the fluid stored in the fluid storage tank.

Please amend the paragraph on Page 5, beginning on Line 12, as follows:

In an aspect, ~~The invention according to claim 12 is the non-contact holder defined in any one of claims 1 to 11, which~~ further comprises: a grip portion that is provided on the body so as to be held thereby; and a stopper provided on the body to restrict a displacement of the workpiece to the outside of the outer peripheral surface thereof.

Please amend the paragraph on Page 5, beginning on Line 17, as follows:

In an aspect, ~~The invention according to claim 13 is the non-contact holder defined according to claim 12, wherein~~ the grip portion is formed so as to be attached to and detached from a movable unit.

Please amend the paragraph on Page 5, beginning on Line 20, as follows:

In an aspect, ~~The invention according to claim 14 is a non-contact holding and transferring device, which~~ comprises: a panel having a plurality of the non-contact holders ~~according to any one of claims 1 to 11;~~ a movable member which supports the panel reversibly movably in a horizontal direction thereof; and a transferring unit which transfers the movable member.

Please amend the paragraph on Page 10, beginning on Line 17, as follows:

The air supply hoses H are then connected to an air compressor, as an example of a fluid supply source, through an air tank 99 ~~(not shown)~~, as an example of a fluid storage tank. The air compressor stores a predetermined volume of air at a predetermined pressure in the air tank 99 and

supplies the air to the fluid supply ports 6 of the non-contact holder 1.

Please amend the paragraph on Page 11 beginning on Line 3, as follows:

The air tank 99 has a temperature controller 98 for suitably controlling the temperature of the air stored in the air tank 99. This temperature controller 98 can suitably control the temperature of the air stored temporarily in the air tank 99 to a required temperature for supply to the non-contact holder 1. The used temperature controller 98 may be replaced with, for example, a heat-pump refrigeration cycle device.

Please amend the paragraph on Page 11 beginning on Line 9, as follows:

Thus, the temperature controller 98 can control the temperature of the air, which is blown through the non-contact holder 1 to the workpiece 5, to such a temperature as to prevent, for example, condensation on the workpiece 5 and damage such as spots.